



Department of Public Health & Human Services, Helena

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2008

I. Call to order

Dennis Maier, MD called to order the regular meeting of the **State Trauma Care Committee** at **1130** on **February 25, 2008** in **Helena, MT**.

II. Roll call

Roll call was conducted and the following persons were present:

Present: John Bleicher, Tim Sinton, Joe Hansen, Carol Kussman, and Pauline Linnell.
Dr. Dennis Maier and Lyndy Gurchiek attended via MetNet.

Absent: Drs. Greg Moore, Charles Swannack, Brad Pickhardt, Jim Bentler, and Kirby Peden, Mike McGree, and William Taylor.

Guests: Kathy LaBaty, Brad VonBergen, Penny Clifton, Laurie Jackson, Paula College, Elaine Schuchard, Jennie Nemec, Bobbi Perkins, Sally Buckles, Gail Hatch, Kim Todd, Kip Smith (MHREF) and Tracey Jones (WY Trauma System Manager).

III. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

IV. Handouts

- Agenda & meeting minutes
- Trauma Team Coding article
- Application process for STCC appointments
- Documentation & UPPL follow-up from Penny Clifton
- Prevention \ EMSC Update
- Eastern RTAC minutes, education certificate & funding request

V. RTAC Reports

- a) **Central RTAC** given by Laurie Jackson and Tim Sinton.

The CRTAC was held on January 24, 2008 hosted by Benefis HealthCare. Education discussion included preliminary plans for providing the TEAM course, ATLS, the use of Heme Con and the MT/WY Trauma Coordinator meeting. The group suggested having EMS notification to the hospital for trauma team activation as a topic for the Trauma System Conference this year. The region is working on revising their regional trauma flow-sheet coordinated by Laurie Jackson. The case study done was presented by the facilities involved. Follow-up for the next meeting will include Air Force representatives to discuss scene safety and coordination of efforts when their personnel and vehicles are involved in motor vehicle crashes.

- The next meeting will be April 24, 2008 hosted by Benefis HealthCare.

b) **Eastern RTAC** given by Joe Hansen

The ERTAC was held on December 13, 2007 and was hosted by St. Vincent's HealthCare with good participation mostly via tele-medicine. The new chairman for the committee is Billy Oley, MD from Red Lodge and Mike Wilcox, MD from Crow Agency will assist. The open STCC positions for the ERTAC were discussed. The educational funding plan was presented. Two case presentations were given involving injuries sustained from animal attacks. Interesting issue identified is that both patients did not have primary thoracic trauma but each sustained incidental pneumothoraxes. The grizzly mauling was recommended as a topic for this year's Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium (RMRTS). They also recommend that Performance Improvement utilizing feedback from the Regional Trauma Centers as a topic for the Trauma System Conference immediately prior to RMRTS.

- The next meeting will be December 13, 2007 hosted by Billings Clinic.

c) **Western RTAC** given by John Bleicher

The WRTAC meeting was held on January 11, 2008 hosted by Community Medical Center. The EMS meeting routinely held before the main meeting has been in disarray and was not held. The RN meeting was held before the main meeting and how to review a medical record for the purposes of Performance Improvement was presented by John Bleicher. The discussion of regional trauma triage guidelines was continued and will be taken to the next meeting as well. Nine cases reviews were held including one mass casualty incident with 26 patients involving multiple EMS agencies and hospitals. Georgi Mayer developed how to use directions for the regional mannequin. She will share this with the other two trauma regions as well. Payment for her work was determined to be \$300 and the WRTAC is requesting that cost be shared by the other RTACs which was agreed to. A significant issue involving the care of pediatric patients sustaining head injuries and neurosurgeons in the region refusing to care for these patients. This issue is particularly affecting inter-facility transfers. This issue appears to be a major issue in the CRTAC and ERTAC as well and follow-up on this issue both at a local and national level was discussed.

- The next meeting will be April 18, 2008 and hosted by Saint Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center.

VI. Trauma System Update – Kim Todd

- STCC positions currently available for appointment are American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), Trauma Coordinator, Eastern RTAC (2), IHS, Central RTAC (2), Montana EMS Association (MEMSA), Private Ambulance Service Operators, Western RTAC, and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). The process for application outlined.
- Designation activities include Focused Reviews for Big Timber on December 20th and Livingston on December 18th done. March 17 - 18 will do Technical Assistance visit in Hardin and Designation visit in Red Lodge. For March 25 - 27 plans made for Technical

Assistance visit in Fort Belknap, Designation in Culbertson and Designation in Anaconda. Need to schedule Designation visits for Malta and Terry.

- Request for information received from Director of Nurses at Dahl Memorial Healthcare in Ekalaka for nursing care of emergent patients who arrive at the facility when there is no provider on-call.
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) 2008 course dates finalized & most student slots already filled. Dates and locations are Feb 29/March 1 in Great Falls, April 11/12 in Billings, June 6/7 in Missoula, and November 7/8 in Billings. Due to high demand ATLS courses a fifth course was added this year on October 10/11 in Missoula. An ATLS Instructor course is scheduled for March 15 in Billings to increase instructor pool.

VII. EMS System Report – Joe Hansen

None of the EMS staff were able to attend the meeting therefore Joe Hansen shared that the EMS Task Force has met and set their priorities. Their goal is to become the State EMS Advisory Committee. The proposed structure and representation is to be discussed at the next meeting in May. A meeting for those interested with Cliff Christensen from the American Heart Association (AHA) was held after the task force met. He shared that good care for patients with either myocardial infarction (MI) or cerebral vascular accident (CVA) requires an effective EMS system. He offered assistance with advocacy training and a communication structure with a call out list during the legislature for this group that calls itself the MT EMS Alliance.

VIII. MHREF Partnership – Kip Smith

Partnership with the MT Health Research & Education Foundation (MHREF) through funding from the federal Rural Flexibility Grant has provided support for the ATLS Instructor course, ATLS scholarships for (2) MDs and (2) mid-level providers from a Critical Access Hospital in each RTAC, as well as support for a Trauma Nurses Core Course (TNCC) Instructor Course. Financial assistance was also provided for (2) EMS manager trainings, additional distance education through Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation (CIT), and regional EMS meetings. Additional opportunities include participation at the MHREF education conferences such as Mike Rotundo speaking on Rural Trauma at the 2008 Champions for Quality Conference being held in Helena on July 18 – 20. Last we are working on joint trauma Performance Improvement activities through their Performance Improvement Network (PIN)

IX. Sub-committee Reports

a) Information Systems / Performance Improvement (Chairperson Brad Pickhardt)

- Report given by Jennie Nemec. Trauma registry and performance improvement summary information provided to the general committee.
- Collector: Data coming for 10 facilities via this method. The new version of Collector out soon along with the ACS data submission module from Digital Innovations and training sessions will be available. Paper Abstracts forms are being submitted by 26 facilities. A new patient data form was developed to provide information back to users.
- We are doing a collaborative Performance Improvement project with the MHREF PIN during this summer with (4) identified indicators and a flow-sheet audit tool. The four indicators are:
 - EMS/Prehospital - EMS trip reports are consistently available in the medical record for trauma patients transported by EMS **WITH** complete response times, initial vital signs (SPO2, Pulse / HR, Respiratory Rate & Blood Pressure) AND Glasgow Coma Scale score.

- Hospital ED/Documentation - Complete initial Vital Signs (Temperature, SPO2, Pulse/HR, Respiratory Rate & Blood Pressure) **AND** Glasgow Coma Scale score consistently assessed / documented in ED record.
- Hospital ED/ Interventional - Utilization of ED cardiac monitoring is consistently implemented for the trauma patient with decreased LOC, multi-system injury, chest trauma and/or potential for cardiovascular instability.
- Process Development - Development & implementation of a Trauma Team with written roles & responsibilities and written activation criteria.

b) **Public Advocacy / Legislation** (Chairperson Jim Bentler)

Dr. Bentler has rendered his resignation to the STCC therefore another chairperson needs to be identified. No activity.

c) **Education** (Chairperson John Bleicher)

- This year's trauma system conference and the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium (RMRTS) will be hosted by the Western RTAC and held in Missoula on September 10 - 12. Planning started for both conferences.
- TEAM course revisions are done and the regions can now start scheduling courses as their resources allow. Financial assistance for the course can still be obtained through a grant obtained by St. Vincent's HealthCare through August 2008.
- The second annual Montana / Wyoming trauma coordinator meeting will be hosted by Wyoming this year in Sheridan, WY on May 13. The MT American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma has agreed to provide some financial assistance for those attending the meeting. The location for the next STCC meeting will be changed to Billings as it will be on May 13, the day prior in an effort to reduce travel for those attending the meeting in Sheridan the next day.

d) **Organization / Emergency Preparedness** (Chairperson Tim Sinton)

Jennie Nemec shared that there is no federal assistance available for the formation of a federal DMAT team in MT. Previous plans for building a consortium with Idaho to cover this function for both states has lost federal backing as well. In light of these developments, we are now working on developing regional emergency response teams. One of the strategies being employed to produce an effective the regional teams is to start with Basic & Advanced Disaster Life Support courses for the team members. The BLS training will be offered via the internet in May and the ADLS course will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs on May 30 – 31. This core group of individuals will then be used to help teach other members identified for the teams.

e) **Prevention / EMSC Oversight** (Chairperson Kirby Peden)

Bobbi Perkins provided a written summary of injury prevention activities attached.

X. Public Comment

None received.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Dennis Maier adjourned the meeting.

The next **State Trauma Care Committee** meeting will be held in Billings on **May 12, 2008**.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kim Todd, RN